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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

Florida quarantine stations transferred to the Marine-Hospital Service.

On August 1 the Marine-Hospital Service assumes charge of all quarantine stations in Florida. One station at Mullet Key is purchased outright by a special act of Congress. All the other stations are leased for three years. The 5 principal stations, Key West, Mullet Key, Pensacola, Miami, and Fernandina, are equipped for disinfection. There are 6 other stations, which are chiefly boarding and inspection stations. State Health Officer Porter has been nominated for appointment as sanitary inspector, Marine-Hospital Service. All the officers and employees, consisting of 9 acting assistant surgeons, 2 sanitary guards, and 24 other employees are transferred to the Marine-Hospital Service.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Final disinfection of steamship Carlisle City.

ANGEL ISLAND, CAL., July 23, 1901.

SIR: In accordance with instructions of Bureau telegram of July 6, 1901, I have the honor to submit the following report: The steamship *Carlisle City* arrived from San Diego on July 10, late in the afternoon, and was sent from the boarding station directly to quarantine and moored alongside the disinfecting hulk *Omaha*.

This vessel had a history of 6 deaths en route from Yokohama to San Diego; 1, a Chinese cook and member of the crew, died between Yokohama and Honolulu, two days out from the latter port. The vessel arrived at Honolulu on June 11 and sailed June 13; on June 14 a fireman was taken ill and died on the 19th; on June 17 a donkeyman and a greaser were taken sick; on June 19 the donkeyman died, and the greaser on the 21st. A sailor and a steerage passenger took sick on the 18th; the steerage passenger died in a few hours and the sailor on June 20. With the exception of the first case, all had fever, delirium, and painful glandular enlargements.

When the sickness appeared, after leaving Honolulu, and during its prevalence, the sick were isolated in a temporary hospital constructed between decks, the steerage and forecastle emptied, washed down and disinfected, under the direction of Captain Patterson, by steam, sulphur, and chloride of lime. The effects of those taken sick were burned or thrown overboard, the bodies of those dead from disease were buried at sea without delay, and the bedding and utensils used in the hospital

burned and thrown overboard. The hospital was disinfected in the same manner as the forecabin and steerage.

The vessel arrived at San Diego late on June 22, and was held at that port until July 8, undergoing detention and disinfection and discharge of San Diego cargo on lighters. No further sickness occurred among the crew after the last death on June 21. The steerage passengers were all for San Diego, and were landed and kept in detention there. One cabin passenger, a ship's master (Captain Winn), and the captain's wife came with the vessel to San Francisco. Acting Assistant Surgeon McKay reports that all the crew and steerage passengers were given an immunizing dose of 10 cc. of Yersin serum each after arrival at San Diego, and the upper cargo holds and living apartments were disinfected by sulphur dioxide by the pot method.

All were well on departure of the vessel for San Francisco, with the exception of the third assistant engineer, who showed some suspicious symptoms. He was detained at San Diego, and subsequent developments showed that his illness was not dangerous. On arrival here, the ship was given a thorough fumigation in order to destroy all vermin on board and all accessible parts were then washed down with bichloride solution.

The cargo was discharged on lighters, exposed to the wind and sun, and allowed to go to the city. The stevedores working the cargo were quartered on the *Omaha*. About 900 tons of coal stored in the lower holds gave much trouble and delay in handling this vessel in quarantine. It was necessary to remove this before final disinfection, as the condition of these holds could not be known until empty; this coal was placed on lighters alongside the vessel and then transferred to the ship's bunkers, which had previously been disinfected. The work was performed very slowly by the stevedores and was the principal cause of delay in quarantine here.

After the discharge of the cargo, a careful search for rats was made in every part of the ship. In all 21 were found, and all of these, after examination in the station laboratory, were found healthy, excepting 4, which were dried and shriveled and presented nothing for examination; these 4 may have been plague rats, but if they were the putrefactive organisms had destroyed all traces of the *bacillus pestis*. No reliable information could be obtained relative to rats seen on the steamship immediately before the recent sickness. The rats were gathered with the usual precautions and immediately immersed in a strong solution of bichloride and subsequently buried.

All dunnage and sweepings in the cargo holds and between decks were carefully gathered and burned in the ship's furnaces. On completion of the lighterage of the coal in the lower holds, the vessel was thoroughly flushed down with strong bichloride solution and subjected throughout to a second fumigation. A careful examination of the crew and passengers was made each day. The stevedores, crew, and passengers, with their effects, were removed to the quarantine station and there bathed and their baggage disinfected by steam and formaldehyde.

It was not practicable nor considered necessary after the sixteen days' detention at San Diego to remove the crew to the quarantine station here. The stevedores were released on July 20, and the ship was given pratique late on July 21, she remaining at the quarantine anchorage until the morning of the 22d, when she proceeded to the city.

The *Carlisle City* is the first vessel to be disinfected at this station

since the installation of the second sulphur furnace on the *Omaha*. With the 2 furnaces working the time is reduced about one-half, and of course the volume of SO_2 poured into the vessel is much greater.

Respectfully,

D. A. CARMICHAEL,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

History of the most recent plague cases in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 20, 1901.

SIR: In compliance with your letter of July 13, directing me to confirm by letter, after the definite decision, each diagnosis as made, giving the name of the person afflicted, the point whence he came to San Francisco, if a nonresident, and his address in the city, I have the honor to submit, herewith, the confirmations of 4 plague deaths reported in my telegrams of recent date.

Case 1.—Lee Ah Wah, aged 46 years; Chinese laborer; died July 5, in Wing Hi's undertaking establishment at 810 Sacramento street.

According to the statement of Wing Hi, who has known him for fifteen years, this man was a resident of and came direct from Bouldin Island, Cal., on July 1; repaired to his shop and died, not leaving the place until his death. He was very sick for five days, constantly complaining of severe pains, but refused to have a doctor called. There is another statement to the effect that Lee Ah Wah has been in Chinatown for a year at least; worked as a cook at a canning house, and lived at 714 Dupont street. It is claimed that he was a sufferer from rheumatism, and that his death was due to an overdose of Chinese medicine (Oe. P. Menth) taken for the alleviation of a headache. I have been unable to verify the latter story, and thought it probable that it was concocted by interested persons for the purpose of throwing doubt upon the origin of the disease. The complete necropsy was performed by Assistant Surgeon Currie on July 6. Characteristic lesions were found, namely, enlarged lymphatic glands, particularly prominent in the right inguino-femoral region; enlarged spleen, showing numerous small hemorrhages under the capsule. Smears made from glandular and splenic tissue showed numerous bacilli, some of which take the bipolar stain. Complete bacteriological examination of blood and tissues developed the bacillus pestis.

Case 2.—M, a Yoshiwara girl; age, 27 years; nativity, Japan; died July 9, after an illness of six days. She had been an inmate of a brothel, frequented mostly by Chinese, at 845 Washington street, for one year previously.

The post-mortem findings in these cases are characteristic, and need not be described in full, not here at least. There were lymphatic and splenic enlargements; a large mass of glands in the right femoral region showed hemorrhages and some distinct necrotic changes on section. Bacteriological investigation of blood taken antemortem, and blood and tissues taken post-mortem, showed distinctly the bacillus of pest.

Case 3.—S, a prostitute; aged 23 years; nativity, Japan; died July 9. She was an inmate of the same house, and was taken ill about the same time, with the same symptoms.

The Japanese physician in attendance states that she had lived at this number for at least five months. The necropsy made by Assistant Surgeon White, July 10, demonstrated the usual pathological conditions, which were in this case especially typical of the disease. Abun-